

Testimony in Support of Bill 9 (2016), CD 1  
Relating to Cultural Sites

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Aloha Kakahiaka Councilmembers. My name is Shad Kane. I am a Cultural Practitioner and member of the Ahahui Siwila Hawaii O Kapolei. I am in support of City Council Bill 9 for the following reasons:

This cultural site is located at Pu'uokapolei, within the Kapolei Regional Park, in the center of the city of Kapolei.

Pu'uokapolei is a volcanic cinder cone and former place of ancient governance that is located in the center of the City of Kapolei today, of which this new city gets its name. It is perhaps more commonly known as Fort Barrette where today an archery range is sited.

The City of Kapolei gets its name comes from this little known hill as inconspicuous as one might think of it. Few of us even see it in our daily drives to and from work. It becomes even more extraordinary when we come to realize how significant a role it played in the history of these islands.

When Kualii took control of Oahu in the 18th century he had a mele inoa, a place name chant, written for him which described Oahu's ancient place names. Pu'uokapolei was the first name mentioned in the mele inoa and identified as the place where games were played and champions were crowned during the makahiki season.

In 1930, Bishop Museum Archaeologist J. Gilbert McAllister acknowledged several reasons why Pu'uokapolei is the most sacred and important place in the Ahupua'a of Honouliuli: it was the location of the region's largest heiau; it was a primary landmark for travelers on their walk to Waianae; it was a place of solar observation and used to determine the seasons. The setting of the sun over Pu'uokapolei when viewed from the Opanaha Kuahu near what is now the Waikiki Aquarium marked the end of the rainy season and the beginning of the hot, dry season. Today every year, the Waikiki Aquarium celebrates the changing of the seasons where an annual joint celebration is held in the month of May at both the Pu'uokapolei Mound and the Waikiki Aquarium. Perhaps May Day is Pu'uokapolei Day; It served as a place of governance when Kamaunuanoho served as konahiki and lived on the eastern side of the pu'u where the foundations of her home still exist and her grave a short distance away. It was where all the farmers, fishermen and gatherers from the surrounding region brought their gifts to her at the time of makahiki. Anthropologist Marion Kelley refers to Kamaunuanoho as amongst our earliest Tahitian ancestors; Kekuapo'i wife of Kahahana, the last ruling chief of the island of O'ahu, who is killed as a result of the assault of Kahekili of Maui on the island of O'ahu wrote a kanikau in honor of her husband. She refers to Pu'uokapolei as the place her husband's spirit entered the afterlife. It is also important to understand the role of Kapo at Pu'uokapolei. She is referred to in ancient chant as the "lady in the faded garment standing on Pu'uokapolei". Kapo is seen in the traditions as a goddess of hula and sorcery. Kumu Hula John Kaimikaua refers to a Molokai hula tradition where Laka, who precedes Kapo in hula, runs away from Molokai to teach hula elsewhere. Kapo finds her teaching hula at Pu'uokapolei.

Former UH Professor Rubelite Kawena Johnson shares with us that perhaps Kapo's lei, the leihala, was the wreath created by the sun over Pu'uokapolei at the time of the winter solstice. The light refracted creating a wreath of gold, yellow, orange and red, resembles the flowers or feathers of a finely crafted lei. This is perhaps the lei of Kapo – the place now known as Kapolei.

This special cultural place, in the Kapolei Regional park, will define our future and who we are in this new city of Kapolei. When viewed on a map of the City of Kapolei it resides in the exact center, the "piko". We are no longer an agricultural landscape but rather one rooted in its ancient cultural past.

A sign should be installed at the Kapolei Regional Park acknowledging the significant role the Pu'uokapolei Heiau played in our ancient history of these islands. Suggest a sign large enough to be seen from a distance at the northern entrance of the Kapolei Regional Park at Fort Barrette Road. This is the immediate entrance to Pu'uokapolei Hula Mound, Skateboard Park and Archery Range. At the top center of the sign the site should be identified by its name the "Pu'uokapolei Heiau". In addition the narrative should be large enough by large bold font describing all the cultural points of interest identified above. Following these cultural points of interest, there should also be a narrative describing the significance of the manner and alignment that the Pu'uokapolei Hula Mound was designed and constructed. It is aligned with the setting sun at the time of the celebration of the "change of seasons" the summer solstice as it sets in hallow of the mahinaona, that is Pu'uPalailai.

At the very bottom the sign should also identify the maintenance efforts of Halau Hula Kaululauae and that of the Ahahui Siwila Hawaii O Kapolei.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify.....shad kane